

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Environmental Justice**

**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

**Funding No:** EPA-OECA-OEJ-15-01  
**CFDA:** 66.604



**Applicant:** Louisiana Environmental Action Network

**Project Title:**

Louisiana Environmental Action Network 2015 Community Climate Resiliency Initiative

**Description:** This project is a new collaborative effort between the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Defenders of Our Land and Water, and Louisiana State University to empower community members and facilitate opportunities to identify and reduce climate-related environmental concerns and threats to public health first in the small, rural Native American community of Grand Bois, LA and then to communities throughout Louisiana.

**Partnering Organizations:**

1. Louisiana Environmental Action Network
2. Defenders of Our Land and Water, a community group of Grand Bios residents.
3. Louisiana State University

## **EJSG Work Plan**

### **A. Project Title and Project Purpose Statement**

#### Louisiana Environmental Action Network 2015 Community Climate Resiliency Initiative

The proposed project is the creation of the Community Climate Resiliency Initiative within the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN). The goal of the initiative is to provide residents of south Louisiana communities, facing increasing environmental exposure risks from climate change, with the education and assessment tools to develop a local Climate Hazards Action Plan (CHAP). The initiative would include tools to create an inventory of local hazards, steps to increase public participation in emergency planning and response policies, and information on a range of community-level and household-level risk mitigation strategies. The initiative would help residents of these communities, already home to multiple environmental exposure risks and limited economic resources, better understand how climate change may affect local environmental conditions, and the steps they can take to reduce their exposure risks and make themselves safer. The initiative builds on existing partnerships, supports EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 3 "Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development" and would enhance the capacity of local communities to participate more effectively in local and state decisions concerning the prevention and control of toxic releases, specifically in relation to the Toxic Substance Control Act (TOSCA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the Clean Water Act (CWA). In addition, the project supports the goals of Executive Order #13653, "Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change" and is particularly responsive to the need articulated in Section 7 for "useful climate preparedness tools and actionable information for ... local communities and tribes."

The requested funding would be used to build a new interactive webpage and convene the 2015 People's Collaborative Workshop. The workshop would bring together representatives of EJ communities from around the state that are affiliated with LEAN to identify local environmental hazards that could be exacerbated by climate change and to take the first steps to develop a Climate Hazards Action Plan (CHAP) for their communities. Utilizing the EPA's existing public data bases and tools, including the EnviroMapper, EJ View and Envirofacts, workshop attendees would receive hands-on demonstrations and training to identify the locations of all regulated industrial sites and storage facilities that contain hazardous materials – sites that if damaged by high winds and floods, could release toxins into the local environment. Prior to the workshop, the partners will work closely with environmental leaders of one pilot community and help them develop a CHAP which will be used as a case study to inform the efforts of the workshop attendees.

The pilot community is the rural Native American community of Grand Bois, Louisiana, near the town of Bourg, within zip code 70343. It is adjacent to an industrial waste facility that is reported to have a long history of significant odor events within the community. The town is located along the Louisiana coast, where sea-level rise and more intense storms as a result of climate change have left residents more vulnerable to the effects of floods and large-scale storms. These events may damage nearby industrial and hazardous waste facilities, thereby introducing toxins into local streams and wetlands. In addition, warmer temperatures may exacerbate air quality problems, increasing exposure risks of residents.

The proposed project would be a partnership of these groups:

1. Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN), the applicant, a 501(c)3 organization based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with a 27 year history of addressing environmental concerns throughout the state from a community perspective.
2. Defenders of Our Land and Water, a community group of Grand Bios residents concerned about the impacts the neighboring waste facility has on the community and environment.

3. Louisiana State University (LSU), as represented by Dr. Margaret Reams, Professor of Environmental Sciences and LSU Superfund Research Program Community Engagement Core Leader

B. **Environmental, Public Health and community climate resiliency information about the affected community**

Grand Bois is a small, primarily Native American Community in Lafourche Parish outside of Bourg, Louisiana. This community consists of approximately 75 homes, including many multigenerational working class households that have a long history in the community and a culture of utilizing and appreciating the local environment. Many families within Grand Bois have a history of fishing and hunting and have historically supplemented their diets through farming and fishing the adjacent lands, bayous and coastal wetlands. In 1982 a commercial waste facility located adjacent to the community of Grand Bois. The closest residence in Grand Bois is approximately 500ft from the edge of the waste facility with the entire community of Grand Bois within roughly 1/2 mile. At the time of the facility's development, the community members reported receiving little and inaccurate information about the planned operations. This facility handles a variety of wastes, including oil field waste, treating the waste in open cells along both sides of Highway 24 that runs through the center of the facility and the community of Grand Bois. The current owner of the facility, r360, describes the facility as:

*...49.1 acres of active treatment cells, 2 surface ponds, 3 reuse stockpile areas, 3 saltwater disposal wells and a barge dock. It is constructed and permitted with natural clay liners. Each cell constructed has a perforated underground collection system.*

The accepted wastes include:

- *Produce Salt Water*
- *Drill muds/cuttings (oil-based, water-based)*
- *Completion Fluids*
- *E & P Tank storage solids & fluids*
- *Produced sands & solids*
- *Washout Water & Washout Pit Waters*
- *Nonhazardous Gas Plant processing solids*
- *Pipeline Test Waters*
- *E & P Waste from Commercial Facilities*
- *Crude Oil Spill clean-up waste*
- *Salvageable hydrocarbons bound from permitted salvage oil operators*
- *Other E&P waste ( DNR approved waste-must get approval prior to shipment)*

The Grand Bois community has a long history of concern regarding the impacts this facility has on the surrounding air, water, land and the health of their community. Wastes at this facility potentially contain dangerous hydrocarbons such as benzene, a carcinogen, and other hazardous substances such as hydrogen sulfide and heavy metals. The most significant community concern to date began in 1994 when the waste facility received over 80 truckloads of waste from an Exxon facility in Alabama that was closing. The fumes from the waste allegedly caused severe health symptoms among the children of Grand Bois as documented at the time by local physician Dr. Michael Robichaux of Raceland, LA. This struggle received a significant amount of media attention including a CBS 60 Minutes national TV special entitled: Town Under Siege. Nearly the entire population of Grand Bois entered into a lawsuit that resulted in what most Grand Bois residents considered to be an inadequate settlement that did not adequately address their concerns. Recently, community concern about the waste facility increased again in 2010 as traffic to the facility allegedly increased and many residents believe the waste facility began accepting material from the BP Oil Spill clean-up efforts along the Gulf Coast. The community of Grand Bois is relatively isolated in rural southeast Louisiana with the next closest community located over 3 miles away.

The community of Grand Bois bears the brunt of any potential impacts from waste handling operations due to their close proximity to the facility and their historical and cultural dependence on hunting, fishing and farming the surrounding environments. The ongoing impacts of this facility pose a potential threat to the health and quality of life of this historic, rural, Native American community.

The Community Climate Resiliency Initiative would help these residents to identify and better understand how climate-related changes including flooding as a result of sea-level rise and more intense storms could disperse toxins directly into local water bodies and wetlands. Also, higher temperatures could exacerbate air quality problems within the community. The initiative would enhance the capacity of local residents to take action to prepare for increasing exposure risks and to be effective partners in planning for future emergencies.

C. **Organization's Historical Connection to the Affected Community**

The Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) was founded in 1986 as a network of concerned community members across Louisiana dealing with environmental challenges. LEAN has become a highly respected resource for individuals and organizations across the state and the country who are dealing with a variety of environmental issues. At the time of the most publicized struggle in Grand Bois, 1994, LEAN began a relationship with community members who were seeking LEAN's experience and support in dealing with the problems they were experiencing from the nearby waste facility. LEAN assisted the community in organizing themselves and educating them on relevant environmental regulations and potential avenues for resolving their complaints. LEAN has always been a community driven organization that strives to be a resource to educate and empower citizens to solve their own environmental challenges. As such, the priorities and strategies of the Grand Bois community have never been decided by LEAN. Throughout the last 18 years, residents of Grand Bois have regularly attended LEAN conferences and events to network and learn from LEAN as they continue to navigate the challenges they feel are present in their community. Within the past year, LEAN has been able to utilize multi-media tools (video, online content, maps, etc.) to bring attention to the problems in Grand Bois. Clarice Friloux, a life-long resident of Grand Bois and perhaps the most vocal advocate for the community has held a position on LEAN's Board of Directors for many years. Mrs Friloux has recently organized many residents of Grand Bois into a community group, Defenders of Our Land and Water.

D. **Project Description**

Residents of many south Louisiana communities face multiple exposure risks as a result of a high concentration of oil and gas extraction activities, chemical manufacturing plants and waste disposal facilities, many located within coastal flood plain areas. Climate changes leading to sea-level rise, warming temperatures and more intense weather events introduce additional risks for increased exposure to a range of toxins in these communities. These risks include adverse health impacts associated with air pollution that can be exacerbated by high temperatures. According to the EPA, "Heat waves and poor air quality often go hand-in-hand because lingering high pressure creates a stagnant environment (wherein) pollutants don't get cleared from the air and build up near ground level." (Human Health Impacts, 2014) Also, flood waters can carry toxins from waste sites into streams and waterways, creating exposure risks to residents. For example, in the south Louisiana town of Houma, flooding events have led to releases of heavy metals from the Delta Shipyard site (recently named to the National Priorities List) into a nearby bayou that is the source of some of the drinking water and fish that is consumed by local residents. (NPL Site Narrative, 2014).

Helping residents and other community stakeholders understand the increased risk that may be posed by the interaction of climate change and existing toxins within local communities is a useful step in developing strategies to reduce residents' exposure risks. Reducing exposure risks in Environmental

Justice (EJ) communities is relevant to addressing the well-documented health disparities between EJ and more affluent communities (Bullard and Wright 2009).

The planned project seeks to further the resilience of south Louisiana communities by supporting activities and abilities that have been identified by researchers as the foundations of resilient communities. Researchers point to the importance of higher levels of scientific understanding of hazards, more opportunities for stakeholders to “self-organize” and share information, and an ability to learn from past events and to take adaptive measures to reduce risks in the future (see for example Reams et al. 2013 and 2012; Adger 2007; Folke 2006; Cutter, et al, 2006; Gunderson 2000). The new initiative will support each of these elements of resilience. The new webpage and workshop will enable local environmental leaders and community residents throughout Louisiana to interact with each other, share information and experiences, and build a network to examine climate-related hazards and strategies to reduce exposure risks. Also, the webpage will provide a central location for technical information regarding local environmental hazards, climate-change projections and possible impacts, and strategies for making communities and households safer.

The initiative also is based on the specific recommendations of participants of the 2013 symposium and workshop convened in Baton Rouge by LSU, Oregon State University and LEAN, with support from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The meeting was entitled “Response, Recovery and Resilience to Oil Spills and Environmental Disasters” and brought together over 80 representatives of Gulf Coast environmental groups, university researchers and state and federal agency officials. The group was asked to develop recommendations for improved response and recovery following future disasters. They noted the importance of accurately characterizing exposure risks in local communities following large-scale disturbances like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. They highlighted on-going confusion and concerns among community stakeholders about the location of regulated chemicals in their communities, both before and after disasters. The group recommended more pre-disaster planning concerning where and which chemicals to monitor following major floods and storms, in order to determine environmental exposure risks within specific areas of communities. Further, the group stressed that the communities need to be involved in developing these plans.

In response to these needs, the LEAN Climate Initiative will provide to residents of EJ communities in Louisiana the following services and opportunities:

First, LEAN and its partners will create a new interactive web page hosted on LEAN’s website. The webpage will serve as a clearinghouse of information about local environmental hazards and environmental conditions. The page will provide a list of and links to existing sources from EPA including the EJ View, Envirofacts, and EnviroMap. Also, information provided by other agencies, NGO’s and universities, will be included. The information will support the assessment of climate hazards in the community and will help residents gain a better understanding of how floods, heat waves and large-scale storms could increase their exposure risks.

Second, the page will contain information about how individuals and communities can reduce exposure risks, introduced both by acute hazards in the community such as flooding, and through more chronic exposure risks including reduced air quality. Adaptations and strategies to mitigate risks can be taken by individuals and by communities. Regarding individuals actions, the page will contain links to model household emergency plans, including checklists for sheltering in place, maintaining communication without power, and conducting evacuations in the case of quick-onset emergencies. In regard to reducing chronic exposure to poor air quality, the page will provide links to daily air quality forecasts, information about ozone health risks, and recommendations to reduce outdoor activity on days with expected reduced air quality. Also, the page will provide links to model ordinances, plans and other resources for disaster preparedness and local emergency response planning.

Third, the initiative will disseminate new “The Louisiana Citizens Guide to Environmental Engagement”, a handbook coauthored by LEAN and LSU. The guide provides information for the public concerning

how toxins are regulated, opportunities and best practices for citizen engagement with policy makers, and strategies to reduce exposure risks and to document and report releases of toxins in their local communities.

Fourth, the project will provide information and guidance to communities in the development of local Climate Hazard Action Plans (CHAPs). The CHAPs will use publicly available data and mapping tools, including geo-spatial locations of sites in the community where hazardous materials are held or used in large quantities. The location of these potential sources of discharge will be presented in conjunction with the location of watersheds, wetlands, parks, schools, and residential areas. The information will help community stakeholders better understand how floods could introduce these toxins into the local environment so that they can avoid these areas, request monitoring of the area from the state Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Health and Hospitals, and build this information into local emergency response plans. The team will work closely with the Grand Bois group to develop their local CHAAP as a pilot study during the first few months of the project. That pilot plan will be shared with other communities through the webpage and through the workshop.

Fifth, the initiative will include a two-day workshop for LEAN members and other interested representatives and stakeholders of EJ communities in Louisiana. LEAN member groups include local environmental organizations in the Vietnamese community in New Orleans East, and the predominately low-income African American communities of north Baton Rouge and Oakville, Louisiana. The People's Collaborative Workshop will be held on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge during the third quarter of this project. The purpose of the gathering will be three-fold: 1) to increase interaction between local communities; 2) to present and share strategies for more effective public involvement in state and local environmental decisions, plans and policies; and 3) to encourage participants to create their own local Climate Hazard Assessment and Action Plan (CHAAP). The group will hear from speakers and will discuss problems including air pollution, rising sea level and flooding, toxic substances, and strategies to reduce exposure risks. The workshop will include a detailed presentation of the Grand Bois CHAAP along with hands-on demonstrations and training by the LSU partners concerning how to use EPA's databases and geo-mapping tools to assess climate hazards at the community level.

During the workshop, LEAN and Professor Margaret Reams and staff at LSU also will showcase "The Louisiana Citizen's Guide for Environmental Engagement". Dr. Reams has extensive expertise in environment sciences, and is the Community Engagement Core Leader for LSU's NIEH-funded Superfund Research Program. Dr. Reams and LSU have been a valuable resource for LEAN and its members in the past and will be continuing that partnership through this project. In many Louisiana communities, residents have not been well-organized and empowered to participate in the standard procedure of dealing with environmental concerns by documenting and reporting to the state regulatory agency (LDEQ). This guidebook was developed over the last year as a collaborative effort between the two parties and focuses on empowering citizens to take an active role in environmental decision making at their local community, state, and federal levels. The guidebook is organized into topic areas around water, air, land, and emergency preparedness and leads citizens through the process of new laws and permits. The guidebook includes a library of resources and contacts for various environmental topics.

LEAN held yearly conferences with its member groups for many years before budgetary restrictions forced the cancelation of the conference for the last several years. Therefore the member groups of LEAN have not been able to come together on a large scale basis and collaborate on various environmental issues. The 2015 LEAN People's Collaborative Workshop will provide that opportunity, enhancing the social capital and technical information available to the community representatives. Also, the gathering will provide an opportunity for dialogue and interaction between community stakeholders and state agency officials.

Following the workshop, the project team will follow-up with attendees and encourage them to share their progress toward developing local CHAPs. With the permission of the community representatives, the team will post news of the local CHAPs on the LEAN website.

Finally, the initiative will include an evaluation plan to gauge the impacts and value of the webpage and workshop. The metrics for the evaluation include the numbers of visits to the webpage and responses to a short set of questions about the ease of use and usefulness of the information presented. Also, the number of CHAPs initiated will be used as an indicator of the impact of the project. In addition, the team will conduct pre- and post-tests of workshop attendees and conduct a difference-of-means statistical test to determine changes in their knowledge levels concerning possible effects of climate change on the environment, the location of hazardous materials within their local communities, whom to call and how to document chemical spills and other accidental discharges, components of a household emergency plan, and how to reduce their overall exposure risks. The team also will conduct a follow-up survey of attendees to gauge the number that adopted either household emergency plans or checked more frequently daily air quality forecasts. The team will include the results of the evaluation in the final report for the project.

The overall goal of the initiative is to help make Louisiana residents more aware of the hazards in their communities, how climate change may increase the exposure risks from these hazards, how to document their observations and concerns so that they can communicate effectively with agency and industry representatives, and how to take steps, both collectively and individually to make themselves and their communities safer and more resilient.

LEAN has a long history of educating and empowering communities and will draw upon over 70 years of combined experience including our Technical Advisor, chemist and respected environmental expert Wilma Subra. LEAN will be responsible for the administrative management of the project as a whole and coordinating the efforts of the partnering organizations. We have outlined a schedule for this project and developed a reporting schedule for documenting progress. The work plan has been divided into 3 month periods (quarters) and defined in the summary project schedule included below. At the time of submission of this application, all organizations have completed a signed letter of agreement. In order to facilitate consistent communication and document progress, LEAN will compile a monthly project status report that is circulated to all collaborative partners. These reports will be summarized into quarterly reports by LEAN that will be provided to all collaborative partners as well as the EPA EJ project coordinator. The final report will be compiled by LEAN at the conclusion of the project.

### **Project Activities and Timeline (12 months)**

#### **Quarter 1 (Months 1 – 3)**

##### **Task 1: Webpage Development:**

- Design and build Webpage hosted on LEAN's website;
- Prepare Guidebook for posting;
- Review and Identify technical resources to be included on website

##### **Task 2: Plan Workshop:**

- Identify list of invitees, including LEAN member groups and others associated with EJ communities in Louisiana.
- Develop guidelines for allocating attendee stipends
- Select the date for the workshop, reserve the Dalton Woods Auditorium and conference facility at the Energy, Coast and Environment Building on the LSU campus.
- Set the agenda, invite speakers from EPA, state agencies and communities

##### **Task 3: Plan the Pilot CHAP**

- Meet with Grand Bois partners
- Identify and compile data and assessment tools to conduct pilot CHAP

Task 4: Develop Evaluation Plan for the LEAN Climate initiative

## **Quarter 2 (Months 4 – 6)**

Task 5: Complete the Pilot CHAP

Task 6: Complete workshop planning

- Prepare the workshop materials – including making copies of the Guidebook.
- Prepare evaluation survey instruments to be given to workshop attendees
- Secure IRB approval from LSU for survey.
- Publicize workshop and issue invitations to LEAN member groups and other EJ-related organizations

## **Quarter 3 (Months 7 – 9)**

Task 7: Convene Workshop

Task 8: Collect evaluation metrics and conduct evaluation of conference.

Task 9: Workshop report

- Prepare summary workshop report and post on webpage.
- Collect Community Climate Hazards Action Plans (CHAPs) from the workshop participants.
- Post the Community Plans on webpage

## **Quarter 4 (Months 10 – 12)**

Task 10: Collect evaluation metrics for webpage

Task 11: Conduct evaluation of web-based information delivery

Task 12: Prepare final project report.

## **E. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability**

The Louisiana Environmental Action Network was founded in an effort to unite citizens across the state into a support system for dealing with environmental concerns at the community level. LEAN has grown to be a highly respected and sought after resource for individuals and organizations navigating a myriad of environmental related problems. LEAN has a long history of documenting environmental challenges in Louisiana, developing tools for citizens to utilize in addressing their local issues, educating citizens to utilize these tools, facilitating the participation of citizens in resolving environmental problems and interpreting and assessing environmental data. LEAN relies on the many years of experience of our staff led by Executive Director Marylee Orr who has developed an extensive expertise in community organizing and effective citizen advocacy. LEAN's Technical advisor, Wilma Subra, is an environmental chemist with over 40 years of experience in dealing with environmental issues in Louisiana and throughout the country. Both Marylee, Wilma and the rest of LEAN's staff have extensive experience in working with communities to develop and implement tools to resolve their environmental concerns. Recently, LEAN has assisted the community members of Bayou Corne, Louisiana in developing an Odor and Symptom Log to document odor events within their community and potentially related health symptoms. These documents were made accessible in print and online through LEAN's website, *leanweb.org*. This tool allowed local residents to document concerns they felt were not being monitored adequately by other agencies and communicate them in a standardized and clear way to regulatory agencies and the public as a whole. A similar Odor and Symptom Log was developed and deployed in response to the BP Oil Spill in 2010.



LEAN is currently in the middle of a 5 year collaboration led by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston to study PAH's in Gulf of Mexico Seafood and coastal residents. LEAN is the lead non-profit organization responsible for facilitating collaboration between UTMB and local communities within Louisiana as well as the production of media tools to communicate the collaborative's mission and progress.

LEAN's scientific expertise, environmental monitoring experience, outreach skills, multimedia (print design and online proficiency) capacity, and community experience and trust make LEAN uniquely capable of engaging and empowering communities to effectively address their environmental concerns. LEAN has assisted countless communities within Louisiana over the past 27 years. Projects and initiatives LEAN works on are consistently driven by the concerns and priorities of the local community. To assure the responsible management of all financial aspects of LEAN's work, LEAN employs a part time bookkeeper and a certified public accountant to oversee LEAN's accounts.

F. **Qualifications of the Principal Investigator or Project Manager (PI/PM)**

The project manager for this Collaborative is Michael Orr. Michael has been with LEAN for over 4 years. Prior to working for LEAN, Michael earned a Bachelor of Science from Louisiana State University and spent several years managing up to 70 employees and large financial accounts in the hospitality industry. His logistical expertise and personnel management skills led him to being hired by several local restaurant companies to train new service staff.

Since joining LEAN, Michael has been responsible for managing LEAN's many ongoing projects and the logistics and communication strategies involved. Most notably, Michael participated in LEAN's extensive environmental sampling response to the BP Oil Spill and has coordinated LEAN's participation within the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences funded UTMB study inspired by LEAN's work post-Spill. Michael's management experience in dealing with finances, logistics, personnel management, and communication tools will allow him to successfully oversee this collaborative project. Michael's resume is attached to the application package.

LEAN has developed into a family run organization led by Marylee Orr and supported by her two sons Paul Orr and Michael Orr. As the son of an environmental advocate, Michael has been exposed to the many community struggles LEAN has addressed over the years. This upbringing has resulted in a lifetime of diverse, unique and community focused environmental education. Michael first became aware of the Grand Bois community through meeting Mrs Clarice Friloux at LEAN's annual conference in the late 90's. Mrs Clarice's position on LEAN's board has kept Michael and the rest of LEAN aware of the challenges facing Grand Bois. Recently, Michael and Paul utilized their multi-media skills to build a modern and engaging online platform for educational video storytelling. Within this platform, Michael helped to produce and direct a short video documenting the story of the Grand Bois community through an interview with Mrs Clarice and Mr Danny Friloux. This video allows the public to hear the story of Grand Bois and is supplemented by historical newspaper clippings, an interactive map and links to other resources describing the issues related to the Grand Bois community. This work has helped to elevate the public awareness of the struggle within Grand Bois and built an online resource for anyone interesting in learning more about the issues there. The EPA EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving agreement is a welcomed and needed next step in affecting substantive change in a community that has seen little relief from their concerns in almost two decades.

G. **Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes**

The Louisiana Environmental Action Network has been a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in good standing for over 27 years. LEAN has a long history of responsibly managing grants from private foundations and donors as well as EPA funding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Though LEAN has not received any EPA funding in the past 5 years, LEAN does retain active working relationships with EPA staff and has a documented history of their support.

LEAN has extensive experience in managing projects and reporting outputs and outcomes to private foundations and donors. LEAN has no history of complaints in reporting from any of our work with past funders or collaborators. LEAN regularly compiled reports and status updates as required by individual project parameters. LEAN also utilizes consistent online e-alerts to keep the public, LEAN members, and funders up to date on LEAN's activities.

Recent projects successfully managed by LEAN include:

**The Louisiana Waterkeeper Collaborative**

A collaborative between LEAN, Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, and the Quachita Riverkeeper program to monitor and improve the water quality of Louisiana.

Amount: \$200,000.00

Term: 2 years

Funded by the McKnight Foundation

Program Officer: Ron Kruz

***SOLA2050.ORG***

A multi-media online platform utilizing video interviews to educate and explore the diverse perspectives of Louisiana's unique environment.

Amount: \$80,000.00

Term: 2 years

Funded by Blue Moon Fund

Program Officer: Kristin Tracz

**GC-HARMS**

The "Gulf Coast Health Alliance: Health Risks Related to the Macondo Spill" (GC-HARMS) research project seeks to characterize health impacts and community resiliency factors related to the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster. GC-HARMS is a collaborative response to characterizing environmental health risks and building community resiliency after the Deep Water Horizon disaster in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Term: 5 years

Contact: Dr. Sharon Croissant, UTMB

H. **Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information**

All survey instruments used to gather information from the workshop participants and viewers of the webpage and the plan for the secure handling of the data collected will be approved by the LSU Institutional Review Board (IRB). The administrators of the project will maintain the survey data on a secured computer at the LEAN office.

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